

Mayor's Council on Disability  
Chattanooga, Tennessee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 3, 2009

John Jackson, Chairperson  
Bryon Kluesner, Vice Chair  
Carol Martin, Secretary  
Jill Hindman, Parliamentarian

Council Members

Sandra Booher, Moccasin Bend Hospital  
Jim Queen, CARTA Care-A-Van  
Tommy Gates, Siskin Hospital for Physical Rehabilitation  
Carolyn Boyd, Signal Centers  
Phillip Stevens, City of Chattanooga  
Karl Epperson  
Nichol Myers, AIM Center  
Robert White, Epilepsy Foundation  
Katie Jones, Merrill Lynch (Special Needs)

Mayor's Office Participants

Matt Lea, Assistant to Mayor  
Jay Piercy, OMA City Compliance Officer  
Kathie Fulgham, Mayor's Office

John Jackson welcomed everyone and asked for a roll call of Council members.

Absent members:

Nichol Myers  
Jill Hindman  
Phillip Stevens  
Jay Piercy  
Matt Lea

Visitors:

Terri Rice  
Bea Lyons  
Chris Jackson  
Elaine Adams  
Sidney McDonald  
Danielle Hooper  
UTC OSD Trip Participants

John asked the group if they had read last month's minutes and asked for any changes or corrections. Terry Rice said that the school system has not actually raised enough money for a service dog, but they are working on it and are close. Carol Martin said the minutes have been corrected to reflect that. The Council approved the minutes as corrected.

John introduced Mayor Ron Littlefield, who was present to recognize the UTC Disability Office as the City's Goodwill Ambassadors for their travel to Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and Fiji to observe how these cultures interact with people with disabilities. Byron Kluesner showed the DVD teaser of the trip. This video is also available on [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bD3LqQ6m\\_28](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bD3LqQ6m_28) John handed out a calendar showing UTC campus activities for the month of October, disability awareness month.

Mayor Ron Littlefield thanked the group for representing Chattanooga so well on this fact-finding mission to see how other countries deal with issues relating to disabilities. He recalled the challenge given to him in 1987 by Jill Hindman to get around the City in a wheelchair. He said although the City may still have some problems, it is nothing like it was in 1987. He said Chattanooga is making substantial progress and the rest of the world is progressing, too. During a trip to China several years ago, the Mayor was part of a delegation touring a new university campus. The dorms were four story buildings with no elevators. When asked how they would provide for the students with disabilities, they looked blank. That was unheard of in China at that time. But since that time, China had to get prepared to host the Paralympics. As a result they had to educate the entire country and make many buildings accessible.

The mayor then congratulated all on the success of the trip to the South Pacific and encouraged them to keep their spirit of adventure. He then recognized each individual with an Ambassador of Goodwill Certificate. These include: DR. NANCY BADGER, DANIEL ARMSTRONG, LACEY BISHOP, GAIL BISHOP, HEATHER CHANG, KATHRYN HALL, LESLIE HARMS, AMANDA JONES, APRIL JONES, BRYON KLUESNER, JEAN-MARIE LAWRENCE, ALLISON MESSIER,

CLINT ODOM, MICHELLE RIGLER, JONATHAN RINER, BROOKE STOVALL, HOLLY ZUCKERMAN. The entire group gathered for a photograph with the Mayor.

Kathie Fulgham reported on the progress of Go!Fest. She said that all is going well with the planning. The fundraising continues; the website is up; there is a link on the top page of the City's website

In Jill Hindman's absence, John announced that the Region 3 DD Council meeting will meet on August 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the AIM Center.

Jim Queen reported that CARTA is doing better now because fuel prices are down. He said they are training drivers for the new hybrid buses which should be on the streets soon. The SETHRA Building, off 10<sup>th</sup> St, should be ready by Labor Day. CARTA has been in discussions with SETHRA about coordinating transportation for citizens of other counties that are coming into our area to access the main CARTA, Care-A-Van, and the four counties in North Georgia. Jim announced that CARTA is having a Board Retreat at the IMAX Theater where the Board will be brainstorming about the future plans for CARTA and transportation in Chattanooga.

In Phillip Stevens absence, John reported that the Go!Fest website is completed and a link is on the home page of [www.chattanooga.gov](http://www.chattanooga.gov) He has also reviewed and updated the MCD site; all outdated information was removed and banked for future reference. Phillip asks that the Council look at both sites and get back to him with any suggestions or changes. Phillip also wanted the Council members to understand that holding the control key and rolling the mouse wheel up and down will increase and decrease the font size for those with vision impairments. The site has had very little contact by e-mail.

Carol Martin announced that the SE TN Placement Consortium has decided to combine the awards portion of its annual Awards Luncheon with the disABILITY in the Workplace Seminar this year. The seminar will be mid-November or December. This seminar is still in the planning stages but will be geared to employers and address

issues around hiring people with disabilities. Last year the Mayor's Council on Disability co-sponsored this event with the Consortium and the Career Center. The Council agreed to co-sponsor this event again this year. The group discussed a venue for the event. Carol said she was looking into BCBST because EPB is too small for this year's event which she hopes will draw about 250 participants. Carol said that she has also asked UNUM and BCBST for the co-sponsorship funding that they have given in the past to the Awards Luncheon. This will allow us to provide free box lunches to all participants as well as cover our other expenses. Carol asks that any MCD member that wishes to participate on the planning committee for this event please e-mail her at [cmartin6@utk.edu](mailto:cmartin6@utk.edu)

John announced that although Sandy Booher is not present, he wanted to mention the Deaf-Friendly Mental Health Services Meeting that will take place on October 9<sup>th</sup> from 9am until 4pm at the AIM Center. The presenter is Steve Hamerding from the Alabama Department of Mental Health.

Elaine Adams, Therapeutic Recreation Services, talked about a few upcoming events. The young adult group will have an event at the Brainerd Optimist Club, which is a nice location and large building. The group will be doing Pinewood Derby Races and lots of other games and activities and have a free dinner for participants. This will take place on August 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

On Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. there will be a Fishing Rodeo at the Brainerd Optimist Club. This will include games and activities for the younger kids including the blow-up fun booth. Elaine warned that the terrain for this event is pretty challenging. Participants are advised to wear sturdy shoes. This event will also include a free lunch to participants.

Both of these events are for individuals with disabilities and their families. To sign up and get more information call Elaine Adams at 697-345 or Lizzy Hockinson at 643-5716.

It was announced that a free lifetime pass to national and local parks is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. that have are medically determined to have a permanent disability. The pass may be obtained in person at any participating federal park. See website [WWW.NPS.GOV](http://WWW.NPS.GOV)

Allied Arts is hosting an ABC Grant Workshop tomorrow, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at Allied Arts.

Kathie Fulgham mentioned that Phillip attended the Seniors Health Fair recently held at Brainerd United Methodist Church, which was coordinated by Signal Centers Assistive Technology Center and thought it was a good event. Carol Martin said that she also attended and was very impressed by all of the gadgets that can be used by anyone, regardless of whether or not they have a disability. Carolyn Boyd added that the event was well attended and that although these gadgets cannot be purchased directly from Signal Centers, the staff can tell anyone interested where they can be purchased. Katye said that she and her mother as well as her sister, who has a disability, attended. They were so impressed with what is available that they felt this event should be held more often and in more areas around the city. If anyone wants to learn more about this event or the assistive technology that was on display, call Molly Littleton at 698-8528 or go to website <http://www.signalatcenter.org/> Terri Rice mentioned that there will be an Assistive Technology display at the disABILITIES in the Workplace seminar.

Karl Epperson mentioned that he has been talking to people who are having problems with the delivery of meals program. He thinks the problem is with finding volunteers to deliver the meals. Karl will get more information to the Council. Karl has also been involved with a new program, Mom's Meals, that delivers 2 weeks of meals via Fed Ex. He has sampled these meals for a month and found them to be very satisfactory. These meals were free to Karl, but he was unsure who was funding this. Meals can also be purchased. See website [www.momsmeals.com](http://www.momsmeals.com)

Danielle Hooper, Chattanooga Area Brain Injury Association, announced that there are three support groups that meet at Siskin Hospital. The first is the Young Adult Group which will meet August 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. There will be a magician that will perform. On Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. the regular evening support group will meet at Siskin Hospital. There will also be a daytime support group meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at Siskin Hospital. Guest speaker will be a representative from the Red Cross who will discuss emergency preparations.

John was asked if there were any slots still open on the MCD. He said there were, but Matt Lea was not present to address that.

Sandy Booher arrived in time to announce that Chattanooga is going to embark upon a training program to train City and County emergency responders for crisis intervention. This is already being done in Memphis. Responders are being trained to work with people with mental illness. This should begin in October. More information about the Crisis Intervention Team model is at <http://www.memphispolice.org/Crisis%20Intervention.htm>

John announced that the next MCD meeting will be moved to the second Monday in the month because of the Labor Day holiday. The next meeting will be on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 at the DRC.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Carol Martin, Secretary  
Mayor's Council on Disability